

## **2009 DIVERSITY VISA LOTTERY PROGRAM REGISTRATION**

**DHAKA, SEPTEMBER 27** -- Applications for the 2009 Diversity Visa (DV) Lottery will be accepted between noon Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) (GMT-4) (10:00 pm Bangladesh Time), Wednesday, October 3, 2007 and noon Eastern Standard Time (EST) (GMT-5) (11:00 pm Bangladesh Time) Sunday, December 2, 2007. Applicants may access the electronic Diversity Visa entry form at [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov) during the registration period. Paper entries will not be accepted. Applicants are strongly encouraged not to wait until the last week of the registration period to enter. Heavy demand may result in website delays. No entries will be accepted after noon EST (11:00 pm Bangladesh Time) on December 2, 2007.

The congressionally mandated Diversity Immigrant Visa Program is administered on an annual basis by the Department of State and conducted under the terms of Section 203(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Section 203(c) of the INA provides a maximum of up to 55,000 Diversity Visas (DV) each fiscal year to be made available to persons from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States.

The annual DV program makes diversity immigrant visas available to persons meeting the simple, but strict, eligibility requirements. A computer-generated random lottery drawing chooses selectees for diversity visas. The visas, however, are distributed among six geographic regions with a greater number of visas going to regions with lower rates of immigration, and with no visas going to nationals of countries sending more than 50,000 immigrants to the United States over the period of the past five years. Within each region, no one country may receive more than seven percent of the available Diversity Visas in any one year.

The Diversity Visa application instructions in Bangla are available on the Embassy's website at [dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov).

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*Note: A Bangla translation of this article is also available from the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: [DhakaPA@state.gov](mailto:DhakaPA@state.gov); Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)*